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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,045	11/13/2003	Shinichi Yoneda	36856.1144	7112
54066	7590	10/31/2006	EXAMINER	
MURATA MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LTD. C/O KEATING & BENNETT, LLP 8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE SUITE 850 MCLEAN, VA 22102			JONES, STEPHEN E	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	2817
DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/706,045	YONEDA, SHINICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephen E. Jones	2817	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/13/03, 4/21/04, 10/13/05(2), 9/21/06
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 9/21/06 is acknowledged.

Claims 13-17 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/21/06.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 6 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding Claim 5, the phrase "the center electrodes are made of a photosensitive conducting material" is confusing. It appears that the phrase would be more clear if it read as --wherein the center electrodes are patterned using a photosensitive printing method--, especially since the center electrode material is not actually photosensitive, but the method of manufacture uses photosensitive materials to form patterns of the device (e.g. see the present specification page 12 (lines 10-16)).

Regarding Claim 6, the phrase "the insulating films are made of a photosensitive insulating material" is confusing. It appears that the phrase would be more clear if it read as --wherein the insulating films are patterned using a photosensitive printing method--, especially since the insulating material is not actually photosensitive, but the

method of manufacture uses photosensitive materials to form patterns of the device (e.g. see the present specification page 12 (lines 10-16)).

Appropriate correction is required.

Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (US2002/0079981 cited by applicant) in view of Takase (JP2002-270465 cited by applicant).

Tanaka (e.g. Figs. 1-2) teaches a circulator including: a center electrode (21-23) assembly including a microwave ferrite (31) (Claim 11) and insulating films (26); side electrodes (24) are connected to the ends of the center electrodes; a metal case (Claim 7); the thickness of the components is in the micrometer range thus the size of the elements can be considered "about 40 micrometers" since about is a broad term (Claim 8); the electrodes can be made of e.g. Ag (see [0035]) (Claim 10); and the device is for communications devices (e.g. see [0004]) (Claim 12). Also, regarding Claims 5-6 the product by process limitations of being made by a photosensitive process is not given any patentable weight since only the final product structure is patentable in an

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apparatus claim and especially since photosensitive material is removed in photosensitive manufacturing processes.

However, Tanaka does not teach that the ends of the electrodes connected to the side electrodes are thicker than the other portions of the center electrodes (Claim 1); that the thicker portion is in an opening provided in the periphery of the insulating films (Claim 2); or that the thickness is increased on an upper surface of the end (Claim 3).

Takase teaches that the connection of conductors sandwiched by insulating films and connected to sidewall connections can be made with the ends of the conductors having a thicker portion where the upper surface of the ends of the conductors are filling a gap formed in between the layers of insulating film (e.g. see Fig. 1).

It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the Tanaka device to have included filled thicker end portions such as taught by Takase, because it would have provided the advantageous benefit of a simpler manufacturing process by the elimination of processing steps while also improving the electrical properties of the device (e.g. see [0007] of Takase).

3. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (US2002/0079981 cited by applicant) and Takase (JP2002-270465 cited by applicant) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sreeram et al.

Tanaka and Takase together teach a nonreciprocal device as described above. However, they do not teach a shrinkage prevention sheet on an upper or lower surface of the layer structure.

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Sreeram provides the general teaching of a forming a multilayer substrate on a glass layer (e.g. see Col. 1, lines 31-36).

It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have included a glass layer such as taught by Sreeram under the multilayer substrate of the combination of Tanaka and Takase, because it would have provided the well-known advantageous benefit of suppressing shrinkage if firing of the multilayer substrate is used in the manufacturing process, thereby suggesting the obviousness of such a modification.

Allowable Subject Matter

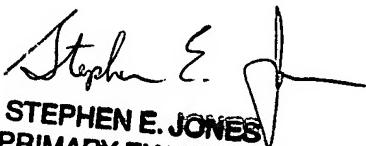
4. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen E. Jones whose telephone number is 571-272-1762. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert J. Pascal can be reached on 571-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SEJ


STEPHEN E. JONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER